

Rainier Beach Consultant Scope of Work

Scope of Work: Develop an inclusive, effective and sustainable organizational / governance model that brings the Rainier Beach community together to implement its neighborhood plan, to achieve its vision of a strong culturally and economically diverse neighborhood, and to be prepared to seek significant support for its work, including foundation support.

Background: Rainier Beach is a neighborhood and community with many assets. There are the physical assets such as waterfront parks, an identifiable town center, community center, library, four schools, transit, etc. There are also social/community assets: this is a community that deeply values its young people, this is also an area with great cultural and economic diversity. There are gathering places, business districts, and community based organizations to support this broad diversity. It is a community that understands that in order to retain a strong and inclusive community they need to actively pursue strategies that achieve its objectives in a holistic way.

The City is currently updating this community's neighborhood plan. In spring of 2011, over 500 people from at least ten cultures participated to help define the scope and priorities of the plan update. The challenge and opportunity is to create a body to drive and oversee the neighborhood's work that is at least as inclusive as those who participated during the update process (old and new activists), as well as long standing organizations. This will be the most successful way to implement the neighborhood plan in a manner that supports its communities.

Timeframe: 4 months

Products: There are two major products of this work.

1. Identify the process and structure that would build community capacity to implement the neighborhood plan to achieve the community's vision in a manner that pulls together the community will and builds leadership capable of achieving tangible results for, and empowering the community.
 - Identify and reach out to the cultural groups, community groups, communities of worship, local business owners / business districts (including culturally specific districts), youth programs, school leadership, etc. within Rainier Beach.
 - Through best practices research and working with existing groups, identify different overarching organizational / governance / leadership models that would best achieve the goals of this work with analysis of pro's and con's of each model – for discussion and decision informed by the Rainier Beach Neighborhood Advisory Committee.
 - Is there an existing organization that can take on this work? If so, what type of additional support may be needed to take fully implement this work? Are we organizing existing groups, creating an alliance or federation, or creating a new group with strong ties to everything that goes on in the neighborhood?
 - Identify who should be at the table, and community leaders (organizations and individuals) and the role they may play.
 - Identify successful methods for how to convene and maintain this structure over time.

2. Prepare the introductory materials and bridge the relationships with major foundations with the interest and capacity to provide major support to this community (ie similar to the support provided to White Center by the Annie E Casey Foundation).
 - Identify major foundations that may be interested in supporting this work.
 - Prepare and present introductory materials tailored to respond to the selected foundations, including at least the overarching vision and goals, leadership structure, range of type and scope of support requested and other information that may be needed.
 - Assist with introductions to selected foundations.

NOTE: In addition, there is great interest among many of the culturally specific communities to have a shared place to come together so that they can each provide the internal support to their own communities as well as for celebrations. Cultural community centers are a place for communities to provide services to their own members so that they can successfully transition/sustain themselves in our culture and economy. They also provide a place for groups to maintain their own identities and to celebrate them – and are usually an effective means of communication. They serve as anchors to hold communities in place. A shared multi-cultural center has the added benefit of providing a venue for identifying shared concerns and developing shared agendas across historic divides. They are also a place for both formal and informal gatherings across all cultures.

- It is expected that there may be significant overlap with work product #1. If so, please identify possible organizational structures and leadership for this as a sub-structure of product #1, and also include in product #2.